

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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PASS TO SECRETARY RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, JA

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH DIET DELEGATION

1. GENERAL COUNSEL J.T. SMITH AND ASSISTANT COMMERCE SECRETARY R.G. DARMAN, AS STEERING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRMEN OF TASK FORCE ON QUESTIONABLE CORPORATE PAYMENTS ABROAD, RECEIVED JAPANESE DIET DELEGATION HEADED BY ISAJI TANAKA ON MAY 19. MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND, IN TERMS OF CONTENT, UNEVENTFUL.

2. JAPANESE DELEGATION HAD BEEN BRIEFED AS TO TASK FORCE'S ROLE, ACCORDINGLY, QUESTIONS WERE MORE ORIENTED TOWARD POLICY DEVELOPMENT THAN TOWARD INVESTIGATION. THEY PRESSED CONSISTENTLY FOR A RESPONSE AS TO WHAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD DO TO STOP LOCKHEED-TYPE INCIDENTS FROM OCCURRING IN THE FUTURE. SMITH/DARMAN SUMMARIZED UNILATERAL EFFORTS ALREADY TAKEN BY USG AND OUTLINED ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED BY TASK FORCE.

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3. JAPANESE INFORMED SMITH/DARMAN OF THEIR INTENTION TO

SEEK ADDITIONAL LOCKHEED INFORMATION, INCLUDING TESTIMONY FROM CERTAIN U.S. CITIZENS, AND SOUGHT COMMITMENT OF CO-OPERATION FROM TASK FORCE. SMITH/DARMAN REPEATED POINT THAT TASK FORCE WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATIONS OR FOR LOCKHEED CASE OR FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. SMITH/DARMAN STATED USG COMMITMENT TO COOPERATION IN

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THIS MUST BE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE JUSTICE TO JUSTICE ARRANGEMENT.

4. ONE NADERESQUE LINE OF QUESTIONING WAS RAISED RE THE SERIOUSNESS OF TASK FORCE. DARMAN/SMITH REBUTTED PREMISES IN NOW HABITUAL MANNER.

5. FINAL QUESTION, POSED SOMBERLY BY ISAJI TANAKA, ASKED HOW USG FELT ABOUT PROBLEMS ITS CORPORATIONS HAD CAUSED JAPAN. DARMAN/SMITH DID NOT QUESTION PREMISE. STATED COULD NOT SPEAK FOR USG, BUT THAT PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS WERE THAT USG WAS MOST SERIOUSLY DISTURBED BY ADVERSE EFFECT OF QUESTIONABLE PAYMENTS ABROAD, PARTICULARLY IN JAPAN. STATED FURTHER PERSONAL VIEWS THAT PAYMENTS WERE NOT ONLY HIGHLY REGRETTABLE BUT ALSO EMBARRASSING. STATED FURTHER, HOWEVER, THAT OBLIGATION NOW WAS FOR USG AND GOJ TO WORK TOGETHER TO INSURE THAT SUCH UNFORTUNATE INCIDENTS DO NOT RECUR. THIS, OF COURSE, PURPOSE OF TASK FORCE AND REASON CONSULTATION WITH JAPANESE DIET DELEGATION WELCOME.

6. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS FOR U.S. REPRESENTATIVES TO RESPOND TO DIET DELEGATION'S QUESTIONS. ALTHOUGH PASSING INQUIRIES WERE MADE BY SMITH/DARMAN AS TO DIET DELEGATION'S ATTITUDES REGARDING ACTIONS BEING CONSIDERED BY TASK FORCE AND IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS, NO INDICATION RECEIVED AS TO JAPANESE DELEGATIONS SUBSTANTIVE OPINIONS ON THESE MATTERS.

7. NOTE DELEGATION ALSO RECEIVED BY ROBINSON, ROCKEFELLER, U.S. CONGRESSIONAL GROUP, OTHERS.

8. ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT--RICHARDSON MEETING WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JAPANESE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION--SMITH/DARMAN HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT JAPANESE COMMISSIONERS MAY WISH TO DISCUSS QUESTIONABLE PAYMENTS PROBLEM WITH RICHARDSON. THEY HAVE COPIES OF LLOYD CUTLER'S PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT. CUTLER'S THOUGHTS INCLUDE ARECOMMENDATION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OF ALL PAYMENTS ABOVE A FLOOR AMOUNT, MADE IN PURSUIT OF BUSINESS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. ROBINSON

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